

Family makes GOP activism a way of life

By Judith Doner Berne
staff writer

Anne Govan, 25, is knee-deep in the inauguration.

Part of a close-knit, politically oriented Bedford Township family, she is a paid member of the Reagan inaugural committee, specifically charged with marketing inauguration commemoratives — from \$5-\$10 jars of Reagan jelly bellies to a \$995 porcelain eagle.

Today, most of her family will join her in Washington, D.C., for the five-day festivities. That includes Mom

(Lorraine), sisters, Char, 18, and Margaret, 28; brothers James, 23, and Michael, 27; a nephew — and a cousin to baby-sit.

Another brother, Philip, 29, is already there. He works for a D.C. limousine service.

But this isn't the family's first inaugural experience. They attended Reagan's 1981 inauguration when Michael became an aide to Vice President George Bush. Now, he is the United States' economic liaison to Puerto Rico. And James is aide to state Senate Majority Leader John Engler (R-Mount Pleasant).

They will miss another sister, who lives in Florida, and their father, Edmund, who died in August.

"ALMOST THE whole gang is going to be here," Anne said excitedly in a telephone interview Monday night from her Washington office. However, she knows she won't have much time to spend with the family.

Besides staying on top of commemorative sales, she is hosting a reception in the Sky Room of the Hotel Washington for the Michigan delegation. Her 10-16-hour workdays are filled with excitement. "This town is almost

chaotic," she said. "The Marine bands are practicing in the streets. You're running into movie stars. It's a thrill." Govan is so fly-by-night politico. She has been assistant finance director for the Republican Party for the past two years. Before that she worked her way up the grass-roots political ladder, first as a precinct delegate, then as a press secretary on a local campaign.

All this took place during and since graduating from Michigan State University in 1982.

A journalism major, who speaks fluent French, Spanish and German and has a nodding acquaintance with Chinese and Arabic, she hopes one day to be an ambassador.

ON LEAVE of absence from the state Republican party, she has interviewed at the White House, National

Republican Party and State Department for a job in the current administration. She expects to hear good news soon after the inauguration.

"It looks real good for me," she said. "I've been in politics. I have good statewide exposure — raising money and conducting special events. I want to carry that state experience to a national level."

Her mother's political activities and her brother's White House experience were definite influences.

"My mother is very politically oriented. She was always a precinct delegate. When I was about 8, I remember her taking me from house to house to distribute campaign literature — and me not wanting to go."

Visiting her brother, whose White House office was across from the vice president, was the ultimate. "It was very exciting to get exposed to that. It was kind of an inspirational setting."

ANNE DOESN'T whitewash the political scene. "I don't think anyone loves the politics of politics," she said. "But that is far outweighed by the positives — the opportunity to start from nowhere with no money, from a middle class, normal family and through hard work get somewhere."

But let's get to the big question — what she's wearing to the inaugural balls.

"I bought my dress last year," she said. "I was confident the president was going to win. It's royal blue/affair — a long flowing gown."

Museum facts

• The first public museum in America was the Museum of Charleston, S.C. It was organized in 1773.

• The first museum built for that purpose and as an art gallery was Peale's Baltimore Museum and Gallery of the Fine Arts, operated by Rembrandt Peale. It opened in 1814 and was sold in 1830 to the city of Baltimore and used as its first city hall.

• Today museums in the U.S. boast an all-time high attendance of more than 500 million visitors per year. But this popularity has created demands that jeopardize museums' ability to carry on their roles as educators, communicators and guardians of America's cultural and natural treasures, according to a book published by the American Association of Museums.

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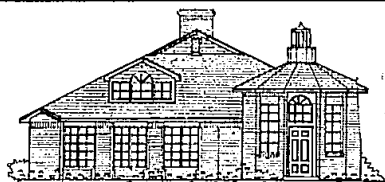


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Some studies indicate that there may be an association between the use of aspirin for flu and chicken pox and the development of Reye syndrome. Further studies are being conducted on this possibility. In the meantime, the U.S. Surgeon General suggests that you check with your doctor before using aspirin or any medication when your child has flu or chicken pox.

—A message from the Food and Drug Administration.

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